AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 3. NO. 39 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1913 — WHOLE NO. 143

INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

INSIST ON

Your United States Senators and Representatives declaring themselves on the Bartlett-Bacon bills. You have a right to know.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS DECLARES LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE ILLEGAL COMBINATIONS

Washington, Dec. 27.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has decided the famous Danbury Hatters' case in favor of D. E. Loewe & Co., the plaintiff, and against the United Hatters of North America. The court affirmed a judgment in favor of the company and against the hatters' organization for $252,-150. With interest and costs the judgment will amount to $312,000. As the second trial in this case in 1909, the company mentioned obtained a judgment for $222,240. The case against the Hatters' union was financed in large part by the American Anti-Boycott Association, one of the instruments of the National Association of Manufacturers. The American Anti-Boycott Association was also the agency used in an effort to crush the American Federation of Labor in the Buck Stove and Range controversy. In sustaining the second judgment the United States Circuit Court of Appeals declared that it is no longer debatable "that the anti-trust act is applicable to such combinations as are alleged in the complaint," and that the trust act makes no distinction between classes of combinations and individuals. The court also held that if had been clearly established that the Loewe Company was engaged in interstate business, and that the defendants were members of the United Hatters of North America, a trade union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, "one of the objects of which the latter organization being to assist its members in any justifiable boycott, and to render financial help in the event of strike or lockout." It will be recalled that in the first trial of the case a verdict was rendered against the Hatters' Union, and that following this determination by the court the homes as well as the savings bank accounts of over 100 members of the Hatters' Union in Danbury, Conn., were attached to satisfy the judgment. Owing to the fact that the Hatters' Union has appealed the case from court to court the final execution of the judgment has been stayed. The case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. At the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor at Seattle, Wash., the committee on Executive Council's report recommended that the Executive Council "be instructed to continue its efforts in the assistance of the United Hatters of North America in the case before the courts in whatever way was possible." The report of the committee was unanimously concurred in. If the Supreme Court should finally sustain the decision of the United States Court of Appeals, then the fines of the workmen, as well as the savings bank accounts of many hatters, will be seized to satisfy the judgment.

In recounting the foregoing facts it must be clear to every trade unionist that the courts have determined to insist upon labor organizations coming within the purview and under the operation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law. The American Federation of Labor has assiduously endeavored to secure the passage through Congress of legislation exempting labor organizations from the operation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, but up to this time has been unsuccessful. There has been, however, bills introduced in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives which, if enacted into law, will give the labor unions a right to live and to continue their activities without being prosecuted as illegal combinations in restraint of trade. These are the Bartlett and Bacon Bills, H. R. 1873 and S. 927. Every local union has been requested by circular and by information and appeals in the Weekly News Letter to communicate with Senators and Representatives urging the adoption of these two measures. The response so far has been exceedingly gratifying, but the exigencies of the occasion require that the international unions, state federations, city central bodies, local unions and individual union members redouble their efforts for the purpose of securing the adoption by Congress of the Bartlett-Bacon Bills. The last decision in the United Hatters' case is undoubtedly the forerunner of an indefinite number of suits that will be filed by hostile interests against the labor organizations of the country. It behooves the men and women of labor of the entire country to insist upon the passage of the Bartlett-Bacon Bills that their liberty and right to exist for mutual protection may be regained and perpetuated. Every friend of organized workmen, and work women, as well as every individual unionist, has a duty to perform in this matter. Do your duty now.

SIGNS WAGE SCALES.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 27.—After a session lasting two days the officials of the Iowa Railway and Light Company have signed a working agreement with the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, providing for the union shop and a wage scale in the local unions located at Boone and Marshalltown. This agreement carries a substantial raise, the Boone agreement giving the men a 12 per cent increase, while Marshalltown receives approximately the same increase. The maximum rate named after three years' service is 26½ cents per hour.

SAFETY AT SEA.

London, Dec. 27.—The committee on life saving appliances, appointed by the International Congress on Safety at Sea, has agreed on its recommendations to be submitted to the Congress. The principle of "boats for all" has been accepted, subject to the proviso that where the fullest use is made of the space available for the fitting of davits, pontoon rafts may be provided for 25 per cent of those on board, and of boats of a recognized type for the remainder. The life boats may include a limited number of motorboats. On the initiative of the American delegates an important recommendation is made relative to the danger from fire, namely, that no passenger vessel should carry a cargo of such a nature or stowed in such a manner as might endanger life or the safety of the ship. Recommendations relative to patrols for the detection of fire, and steps to provide for extinguishing, and regulations for the manning of passenger vessels, and the number and qualification of boat leaders have been made. On the latter question, however, there was great divergence of opinion. Some delegates suggested one year's service at sea as the qualification, while other delegates favored three years' service. The final recommendations on this matter are in accord with the current practice in large lines. As the committee is composed of men who are considered to be experts, representing the nations participating in the conference, it is expected that the Congress will adopt the recommendations of the committee on life saving appliances.

START WAR ON LAPOF.

Fargo, N. D., Dec. 27.—The master builders of Fargo, Moorhead and vicinity have given to their employes a Christmas gift in the form of an "open shop" declaration. It has been known for some time that the building contractors in this vicinity were desirous of trying conditions with the building trades crafts, not because of any particular disagreement, but evidently for the sole purpose of demonstrating the favorite pastime of "union busters" throughout the country. This week's ad in the local papers voiced in the face of the fact that the Building Trades Council effected a satisfactory agreement with the building trades employers whereby all disputes which could not be amicably adjusted would be referred to a board of arbitration, the decision of the arbiters to be final and binding upon both sides to the controversy. It is surprising that the "lockout may cover the entire building trades the master painters have violated an agreement with their employes, which does not expire until April, 1914. The locked out employes have not had knowledge of the intended lockout, have been able to make provisions for a long siege if it becomes necessary.

ADVISE STATE INSUBANCE.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Under the new workmen's compensation act, which goes into effect January 1, every employer of labor will be required to insure his employes. The industrial accident board is sending out blank forms to employers, asking those who desire to place their insurance with the State to make application. The schedule of rates submitted will sum aggregating $170,000 to finance its insurance business, and the rates which the State will charge, it is said, are estimated will be from 30 to 40 per cent of the rates now being charged by insurance companies. Harris Weinstock, a member of the industrial accident board, commends the state plan and is urging that employers assist the State in its effort to relieve the situation by affording lower rates.

STEEL PLANT TO RESUME.

Granite City, Ill., Dec. 27.—By January 1 workmen on the structural steel of two extensions to the Solvay Process plant of the Granite City plant of the Commonwealth Steel Company will complete their work and the plant will be ready for business to put to work a full quota of men. It is reported that the mill is employing 2,700 men, more than at any time in its history. There was a report given out that the Corn Products Refining Company of Granite City had ordered the mill down or was running short time. In a statement that made it is asserted that the mill is running to capacity, with between 2,000 and 1,000 men steadily employed and business and prospects good.

RUSHING TO CANADA.

Washington, Dec. 27.—In a dispatch sent out from Ottawa, Ont., it is said that owing to the great increase in the number of workingmen in the United States appearing at every port of entry of Canada, the Dominion government has raised the cash requirement of each immigrant from $25 to $50.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL

Washington, Dec. 27.—The Senate Judiciary Committee has voted to take up the workmen's compensation bill after the Christmas recess.

SURE.

New York, Dec. 27.—The President of the Postal Telegraph and Commercial Cable Company has sweepingly condemned the postmaster general's plan for government ownership of the telephone and telegraph. This has been expected, but the angle of objection is, in effect, that the investment by the government would be of such tremendously large proportions as to make it exceedingly burdensome. One argument used by the telephone and telegraph magnate is that the taking over of the two transmission lines would involve the expenditure of $1,000,000,000, declaring this sum "is about two-thirds of the national debt at the close of the civil war, when pains would be taken to preserve between the assets of the government in making this large investment in comparison to the assets of the government at the close of the civil war. There will now be much publicity given to the theory that private ownership would not return vast profits, yet it will be impossible for the government to take over these transmission lines and even make them sustain themselves. The private ownership idea, however, will only mean perhaps delay, for a time, the absorbtion of these lines by the government, but eventually government ownership will prevail.

GET BIG RAISE.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 27.—The president of the Service Corporation announces increase of 5 cents an hour as a Christmas to 10,000 motormen and conductors employed throughout New Jersey. The increase is 2½ per cent and will add to the company's pay roll $260,000. Extra men are now receiving $3 and will earn from $16 to $12 a week, work or not, and are rated at 23 cents per hour as beginners. They get all they earn over $12 at the above rate.

SENTENCED AND LET GO.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 27.—President Van Bittner, of the Pittsburgh District of the United Mine Workers, was sentenced recently to sixty days in the workhouse, but was promised his freedom if he would apologize. The charge against Van Bittner was that he had violated an injunction issued by the inexpressible Judge Dayton. The court offered to suspend the sentence, provided Van Bittner would apologize, but on appearing before the court he refused to do so, maintaining that he was performing his duty in fighting for the best interests of the United Mine Workers. The Judge, although not securing the apology, announced "his ignorance of the law" and let him go. It is stated that the Judge neglected to tell the United States President of the United Mine Workers was involved in this particular case he would have given him over to jail. There were several others under charge of violating the injunction, but all were released by the Judge and then let off and immediately the strikers went back to "striking" again.

ANOTHER SWINDLE.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—The officials of what is termed the United Trades Schools have been arrested charged with failing to pay the wages of workmen as announced by representatives of the school and the printed curriculum. At the time they were arrested fifty witnesses to be heard against the defendants. One instance of the manner in which this new swindle is conducted is the story told by one of the victims who said that after paying $125 he was given two days work and then told to purchase a quantity of tools and get out on the job, which meant that he was to do contract work of the United Trades School for private individuals. While the school officials were receiving pay for these strike duties the students have not received any remuneration for their services. This is another form of unincorporated, but undoubtedly will be short lived.

ENFORCING THE LAW.

Joplin, Mo., Dec. 27.—The State Labor Commissioner is in the city for the purpose of assisting in prosecuting violators of the law which requires that persons operating employment agencies take out licenses. This requirement is for the purpose of guaranteeing and protecting the workmen from fraud and misrepresentation. There are now three men here who have been charged with violating the law, several cases ready to go to Colorado, the men employed not being informed of the conditions existing in Colorado between the mine operators and the coal miners in Colorado.

NAVY YARD EMPLOYES.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Arguments by the representatives of the men employed in the Washington navy yard have been presented to Secretary Daniels protesting against a reduction of 3 cents per day, which the wage board had decided upon. There were two representatives of the men, Mr. Mack and they urged that an increase in wages be given to the employes of that government service. It is expected that final action will be taken on it, a questions almost immediately, for the new scales are to become effective on January 1.

SCHOOL-TEACHERS GET RAISE.

Berlin, Canada, Dec. 27.—The salaries of nearly all of the public school teachers have been increased for 1914 by the Board of Education. The salaries of the public school teachers will range from $500 to $750 per year, while the superintendents of the various ward schools have been granted a substantial increase.

COPPER MAGNATES UNJUST.

Washington, Dec. 27.—In the weekly letter sent out by Frank P. Doty, Secretary of the Social Service Commission of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, appears an article entitled "The situation in the copper districts of Michigan. The writer asserts that he has visited the strike section and has made an investigation of the conditions obtaining, as well as securing a large mass of data. The article severely criticises the mine operators for the position which they have taken, and asserts that the newspapers, Commercial Club and the Citizens Alliance of the copper region are all dominated by the owners of the copper companies in carrying out their scheme to crush the men who have asked for what they think is the living wage and reasonable working conditions. In the closing paragraph of the letter the writer predicts that if the present idea will progress in the copper country, and that while the company may defer the main issue indefinitely, it will not be settled as final or decisive, and predicts that the copper magnates will find the government will be compelled to deal with their employees collectively if they desire to continue the operation of their mines.

HOLD EXTRA SESSION.

Denver, Dec. 27.—The State Federation of Labor called an extra session of the organization for the purpose of protesting against the indignities being heaped upon the men who are on strike in the coal fields of Colorado. A large number of delegates were present. It was decided by the special convention that delegates and members of organized labor were to proceed to the capitol in a body for the purpose to recall the militia now on duty, and also that the adjutant general of the State be discharged from command of the militia, and that all prisoners be liberated. The governor refused to act in the matter, although stating that an investigation would be ordered relative to the charges made against the militia generally. There developed sentiment relative to initiating a recall petition to recall the governor, but as yet it has taken no definite form. The coal companies that have State contracts are unable to supply the coal necessary for some of the State institutions, notably the State penitentiary. It was asserted that the institutions are buying coal in the open market in order to keep the fires going at the Canon City prison.

VIOLATE FACTORY ACT.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The Supreme Court of Indiana held, in the case of Waverly Company vs. Beck, that the doctrine of contributory negligence could not be invoked to defeat the claim of a child injured in a service prohibited by statute. It appeared that the plaintiff, who was only sixteen years of age, was employed by the appellant in running an elevator and was injured by having his foot caught between the elevator and the floor at the place of landing. The court in the court was based upon the fact that the employment of the minor in the capacity mentioned was in violation of the factory act of 1899.

ANOTHER TEMPLE IN SIGHT.

Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 27.—The Labor Temple Association recently filed articles of incorporation and by-laws were presented, among them being that of the committee on site. This committee was empowered to negotiate for the purchase of property suitable for a labor temple. The association finally decided to purchase the site, the cost of the proposed site which, in its opinion, would prove the most advantageous to the labor interests and the public at large. The sum sufficient amount of money on hand to make a substantial payment upon the site.

PREDICT COAL STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—A strike of the Pennsylvania soft coal miners was predicted by the executive board of the Association of Bituminous Operators. The probable strike was the outcome of their arbitration agreement was asserted to be the basis of the prediction. One operator declared that the present is the crucial time at the mines there was danger of a soft coal famine, as there was barely enough soft coal in this city to last two weeks.

TOBACCO SORTERS STRIKE

Washington, Dec. 27.—The employes of the tobacco sorting plants in this place, 1,000 in number, went on strike to resist an attempt to reduce their pay from 30 cents to 25 cents per 100 pounds. The plants were obliged to close. A committee of sorters has been named to meet the employers for the purpose of negotiating a settlement.

ST. LOUIS LEGISLATIVE BODY INDORSES BARTLETT-BACON ANTI-TRUST BILLS

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—The House of Delegates in this city has passed a resolution indorsing the Bartlett-Bacon Bills, and the resolutions are here reproduced in full:

WHEREAS, one of the main political issues in which labor is interested is to take the organizations of the wage earners out of the Anti-Trust Act, and to stop the practice of issuing restraining injunctions against laborers and wage earners during industrial differences and disputes; and,

WHEREAS, the cause of justice, freedom, and the rights of man have been equally upheld in the various National Party platforms, and are now not only attracting general public favor, but are before the United States Senate and House of Representatives in the form of two bills, one of which known as Senate Bill No. 927 and House of Representatives Bill No. 1873. These will come up in December next for the scope of which is, "That it shall not be unlawful for persons employed, or seeking employment, to organize or enter into agreements aiming to lessen the hours of labor, increasing their wages, or exercising any of their rights as persons who are employed, or seeking employment, shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried, in any court of the United States for entering into any such agreement as would tend to lessen the hours of labor or increase their wages, or better their conditions, or any act done in pursuance thereof," &c.; there

RESOLVED, By the House of Delegates of the City of St. Louis, That we hereby call upon our United States Senators, Hon. William J. Stone and Hon. James A. Reed, and the Representatives in Congress from the Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Districts, the Hon. Richard Bartholdt, Hon. C. C. Dill and Hon. William Igoe, to use all honorable means to gain support for, and to vote for, said Senate Bill No. 927, or House of Representatives Bill, No. 1873, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of this House be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of said Senators and Representatives above mentioned at Washington, D. C., to appraise them of the action of the House of Delegates of the City of St. Louis.

The resolution was introduced by Delegate Deffas, and its passage through the House of Delegates is unique in the annals of this city, as it is the most unusual occurrence for any municipal legislative body to take a pronounced stand in favor of remedial legislation affecting working men and working women.

ABANDON GENERAL STRIKE.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 27.—Owing to the fact that the Steamfitters' strike has proved used for a considerable Central Body submitted a resolution at the convention of calling a general strike, with the end in view of aiding the Steamfitters. The strike vote showed a favorable majority, but it was decided that before calling the general strike to consult President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor. In reply to a telegram from the Central Body, President Gompers wired this statement: "Facts noted. Important, as well as fundamental. If agreements with employers are broken it is reasonable to suppose that they will not readily enter into new agreements. Is it wise to make fair employers suffer for the misdeeds of those who are hostile? Justice, fairness, and particularly in the interest of the workers, forbids a general strike; at any rate, at this time. An intelligent, firm stand or steady march forward are more advantageous than the passionate, headlong rush."

PRINTERS' NEW SCALE.

Omaha, Nebr., Dec. 27.—For twenty-nine years there has been no strike on the newspapers of this city, and a new contract has just been entered into which will guarantee industrial peace in this particular line of industry for the next five years. It is considered that the agreement just secured is the best ever secured. Under the new agreement the wages of hand and machine compositors are increased 2½ cents a day, making the wage scale $25.50 a week for day work and 28.50 a week for night work of six eight-hour periods, with pay for overtime at the rate of time and one-half. The wage increase in the newspaper offices extends automatically to machine operators, and to the Independent offices in Omaha and South Omaha under the trade agreement made a year ago.

CIGARMAKERS CONFER AGAIN.

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 27.—The fourth conference of Cigarmakers from the first and ninth district of Pennsylvania was held at Quakertown, Pa., recently. The purpose of this conference was in furtherance of the plans already mapped out to induce the manufacturers to resume running over many weeks, were futile and a strike was ordered. They demanded a raise of $1 per day of 9 hours, a wage scale of $27 per week. A large majority of the small towns, as well as the larger ones surrounding Tacoma are now paying considerable more than this city.

APARAGE LECTURES

St. Paul, Dec. 27.—The Carpenters' Union has inaugurated a movement which cannot but result in great benefit to the members. A course of lectures arranged a series of lectures at its regular meetings on topics of vital interest to them. These lectures will include discussions on the workmen's compensation law, the mechanics lien law, and will also one lecture devoted to union labels. This program is to be continued well into the spring.

URGES OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Washington, Dec. 27.—A joint resolution, proposing that a committee of three Senators be appointed by the President and three members to be selected by the House, and providing for an investigation and report relative to old age pensions and annuities on or before December 1, 1915, has been introduced in the House by Representative Sabath, of Illinois.

COMMITTEE TAKES RECESS.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has adjourned for the holidays and no more hearings will be had on the La Follette seamen's bill until the early part of the coming year.

DISCOURAGING EMIGRATION.

Washington, Dec. 27.—A cablegram from Rome to the Department of Commerce and country states that the Italian government is discouraging emigration to the United States of Italian persons. A ...sing has been issued that there is demand in America for unskilled labor, due to the increase in emigration from other countries of Europe and also because of the lack of outdoor work in winter. The information authorities of the Italian ports, especially of Genoa and Naples, have been instructed to try to dissuade all persons from emigrating who have a job awaiting for them from coming to the United States. It is estimated that 800,000 left the country this year, 500,000 of them bound for the United States. Italian government officials have been instructed to see that no checked. The United States will adopt extreme restrictive measures to compel the Italians to return, as they arrive for the most part in the United States without funds. The Italian immigrants, as a rule, sell everything they possess to enable them to buy a steamship ticket, and if they went back they will return destitute and make the problem of unemployment more acute than it is at the present, and possibly provoke an industrial crisis.

LOS ANGELES CAMPAIGN.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—The Los Angeles Workers have started an organization campaign with the object of bringing all the unorganized workers into the various unions. The aim of the campaign is to be a "100 per cent union city." Many mass meetings have been arranged and immense quantities of literature is to be distributed. Bill boards are to be covered with posters giving short definitions of unionism, and what it stands for. The enthusiasm of those who are actively engaged in this work is inspiring and the work to be performed cannot but greatly enhance the effectiveness and influence of the trades union movement here.

WAGES SHOW INCREASE.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Wage data, covering the earnings and hours of employment of cotton, woolen, silk, hosiery and knit in the boot and shoe, hosiery and knit goods industries have been made public by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the Boot and Shoe business wage rates per hour in 1912 were 0.3 of 1 per cent higher than in 1911, although there was a reduction in the number of working hours per week. In the hosiery and knit goods industries the rates of wages per hour in 1912 went 5.8 per cent higher than in 1911, despite a reduction of 1.7 per cent in the actual time of employment.

PRINTERS STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 27.—The Job Printers in this city, after endeavoring to secure an amicable settlement with the employing Printers, have declined to work longer than 8 hours per day. The strike went into effect on January 1st, and a strike was ordered. They demanded a raise of $1 per day of 9 hours, a wage scale of $27 per week. A large majority of the small towns, as well as the larger ones surrounding Tacoma are now paying considerable more than this city.

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CRITICISES REFERENDUM.

Indianapolis, Dec. 27.—In commenting on the recent referendum vote of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union, under which the question of affiliation to the American Federation of Labor was defeated, an editorial in the official organ of the union says, in part: "In the last referendum returns show that there was" absolutely no interest displayed in the question whatever, and if this is the showing that can be made, taking into consideration that special meetings must be called by each union, to bring about such question, then we do not hesitate to say that popular votes or votes by unions upon important questions affecting the important interests of our international union are farcical and should be discontinued." The editorial continues with the statement that the Bricklayers' Union is not the only one that has proved a failure, as well as the voting by unions, and asserts that the referendum is, to the least, to those who believe in popular vote government. In conclusion, the article says: "We are prone to show that 81 per cent of our unions voted upon the proposition, only 25 per cent of our total membership cast their votes. In other words, out of 836 unions on our rolls, with a total membership of 82,000, 750 submitted returns, giving a total vote cast of 20,351."

TESTIMONIAL DINNER.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—A testimonial dinner to President Gompers is being arranged by a committee of the Washington Central Labor Union. The dinner is to be given on the night of January 27, on the occasion of Mr. Gompers' sixty-fourth birthday anniversary, and is the day on which Tony Costello is expected to arrive from Texas, according to a message from the Weekly Dispatch, the local labor paper in San Antonio. Costello has covered about the entire distance, half of the distance on foot, and is ahead of his schedule at the present time.

CITY CONTROL RAISES WAGES.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Up to 12 o'clock, midnight, of Wednesday, December 10, the motormen, conductors and gripmen of the United Railroads properties street railway line were receiving $2.70 a day for ten hours. Upon the stroke of 12 that day passed into the hands of the city of San Francisco, and automatically those men and others who were raised to $3 per day of eight hours. This shows a decrease of two hours per day and an increase in wages of 30 cents per day. This is surely a potent argument in favor of public service corporations like this city being absorbed by the municipality. It has been widely heralded by those who were opposed to the city acquiring the car line and public ownership would result in less efficiency and be detrimental to the best interests of the employes, but the experience of San Francisco is that municipally-owned car lines can operate with the same and higher wages than granted by private corporations.

FIGHTING SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The hearings now going on before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on the La Follette Seamen's Bill have reached a stage whereby the managers of shipping companies are fearful lest the enactment of the law will deprive them of cheap labor, orphans who are stockholders in the shipping companies of the country." Whenever seamen's humanitarian laws are asked for the purpose of compelling corporations to safeguard their employes and property, the cry of "cheap labor" is the argument is always used to play upon the feelings of the people and those entrusted with enacting laws.

ONLY TROOPERS ON CARS.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 27.—Troopers of the State constabulary are now doing patrol duty on the trolley cars of the West Penn railways, as none of the 75,000 persons employed by the company in the city as motormen and conductors are patronizing the line. The company has offered 3 to retain all employes without a cut in wages, but the men have refused, insisting that they were discharged because of their membership in the union.

INSURE CITY EMPLOYES.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 27.—A compensating insurance fund for the protection of the city employes has been created by the enactment of a municipal ordinance. By the terms of the ordinance, in addition for disabilities sustained in the course of their duties and a tax of one-half cent per $100 of assessed valuation will be levied as a necessary nucleus until the fund totals $10,000.

PRESENTS INSURANCE.

Colorado Springs, Colo., Dec. 27.—The Colorado Springs & Interurban Street Railway Company presented to its 22 employes on December 25 a $1,000 insurance policy as a Christmas gift, premiums on these policies to be paid by the company annually. The local street car employes decided to accept the gift of the company, and the motormen and conductors have signed applications for the same.

PARAGOULD COOPERS STRIKE.

Paragould, Ark., Dec. 27.—The strike of the Coopers is in its thirteenth week, and the situation remains unchanged. The organization has grown prodigiously since the strike took place. While it is apprehended that the contest will not be of short duration, the indications are to a position to harass the controversy indefinitely.

INDORSING BILLS.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Unions all over the country are interviewing and communicating by letter with their United States Senators and Congressmen, urging the adoption of the Bartlett-Bacon Bills. All unions, as well as individuals, who have not yet communicated with their congressional representatives are urged to do so at an early date. With a general demand from the laboring people for the enactment of this legislation it will have a salutary influence upon those who are in charge of these measures. Do it now.

ACCIDENTS REDUCED.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Decreases in the number of accidents caused by defective locomotive boilers is pointed out in the annual report of the chief inspector of locomotive boilers of the Interstate Commerce Commission just made public. "The practice of conducting a rigid and searching investigation of all accidents sufficiently serious to justify a report, with the sole object in view of determining the exact cause and having a proper remedy applied, has done much to reduce the list of casualties," says the report. The result of Federal inspection of locomotive boilers has reduced by 60 per cent fatalities during the past year, over the year 1912, and over 10 per cent in the number of injured. There were 34,326 locomotives ordered required because of defective parts, and over 2,000 engines with defective wheels likely to cause serious accidents were not permitted to be used until repaired. The report goes on to say that it is hoped that such an investigation would follow each accident has been an incentive to the railroad companies to improve their equipment so that accidents of the character under consideration would be of little importance hereafter. Uniformity is asked for to make the boiler inspection law apply to every part of the boiler and tenders, as well as to locomotives boilers and appurtenances, so that the inspectors will have the authority to require proper repairs to be made in any part of the locomotive tender when it is found to be unsafe for service.

SCAPE-GOATING A MAYOR.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The following interesting comment appeared in the last issue of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce: "Mayor Shank, of Indianapolis, resigned because the Chamber of Commerce of that city put upon him the responsibility for a strike, and appointed a committee to bring impeachment proceedings against him in case there should be any more labor troubles. Of course, as was as much responsibility for the strike as the scape goat of old was responsible for the sins that were loaded upon him. But it is somewhat surprising for the Chamber of Commerce to direct attention from its own responsibility in labor troubles. Let it not be imagined that the members of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce inferred under the law they duly elect Californis know how chambers of commerce are controlled. Perhaps a 'committee on impeachment' of the Mayor should be but one of the standing committees of every well-regulated chamber of commerce. What's a Mayor for, anyway, if he can't be held responsible for the labor troubles and why should men 'as made up chambers of commerce?'"

HATTERS' GET BIG FIRM.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 27.—One of the big hat manufacturers of this city has signed up with the Hatters' Union, and the products manufactured by that concern in the future will carry the union hat label. This firm—J. Rumwell & Co.—was to the big combine in 1902, when over 10,000 members of the United Hatters' Union were locked out in more than forty hat factories in the United States. Since then the firm mentioned has maintained an open shop until the settlement just referred to. For a considerable length of time the firm has shown a degree to again be in agreement with the United Hatters' Union, and organizers and officials of the drift finally went into conference and the result is as above stated.

SANITATION FOR CIGARMAKERS

Baltimore, Dec. 27.—The local cigarmakers' union is preparing a bill to be presented to the next general assembly, of Maryland, calling for the sanitation of cigar factories to maintain sanitary workings. The principal feature of the bill of this measure is that it is claimed that in the handling of tobacco under the present condition there is a great danger from the spread of tuberculous germs. The bill is so prepared as to provide the manufacture of cigars in rooms where the air is without exposure to the bacilli that spreads the dread disease of tuberculosis.

IN RACE FOR CONGRESS.

Everett, Wash., Dec. 27.—J. E. Campbell, State Senator from this District, is to enter the race for the nomination for Congress on the Republican ticket. Representatives from this district, He has served three terms in the state legislature. Mr. Campbell was formerly a member of the House of Representatives and once as State Senator. Mr. Campbell is a member of the Brotherhood of Shingle Weavers' International Union and will retain his membership in that organization.

MINE WORKERS' CONVENTION.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 27.—The local unions of the United Mine Workers have been notified that the biennial four-days executive constitutional and first biennial convention of the United Mine Workers will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., commencing on Tuesday, January 20, 1914. The convention will be the fifteenth ever held by the United Mine Workers of America.